Great Panel Cutting and Dadoing Jig!

Excerpts from the Messageboards

Derek Arita. I just made this jig that I saw on a website and it works great! It's a 10 inch by 5 foot long piece of 1/2" ply, cut as straight as I could possible get it. On top of this is a 3" wide by 5' long piece of ply, straight and lined up with an edge on the wider piece, glued and nailed. Using your circular saw, you cut the length of the wide board using the edge of the 3" piece as the guide. That's it! Now you've got a panel cutting jig that really works. The jig works so well, I'm going to make a smaller one for smaller panels. Wish I could remember the website.

Al Crandall. If you make two of them of appropriate size and use your router to trim them to the proper width instead of using the circular saw, you will have a great jig for dado-ing. Just lay out the location of one side of the dado on your stock and clamp one of the jigs on the line. Then take the piece which will eventually be inserted into the finished dado and sandwich it between the two halves of the jig. Clamp the second jig in place, remove the piece from the jigs and rout away. You will have a tight fitting dado without even measuring the thickness of the piece going into it. You might find it necessary to also add a piece of paper to the sandwich so the fit will be loose enough to allow room for some glue in the sides of the dado.